

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-identified application are respectfully requested. Upon entry of this response, claims 1-14 will be pending.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §112

In the office action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-14 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The Examiner objects to the claim term “identify(ing) an image file” to be enlarged and printed. The Examiner questions how one skilled in the art can identify the image file. The file determining portion 50, as described with reference to an exemplary embodiment of the present invention, can include any known means for identifying an image file that one desires to enlarge and print. As suggested by the examiner, the file determining portion can determine the particular image file to be enlarged by the name of the image file, or any other method well understood to those of ordinary skill in the art. As used herein, “file determining” can be understood to mean “selecting” or “identifying” the particular image file that one desires to enlarge and print. Accordingly, one of ordinary skill in the art could appreciate that there are numerous ways to “determine” which file should be enlarged. Any and all such methods should be considered to be within the scope of the present invention, as claimed.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §102

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-14 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Published Patent Application No. 2003/0179953 to Ishizaka. The Examiner argues that Ishizaka discloses a method and apparatus for enlarging an

image and printing an enlarged image, identifying an image file having an image to be enlarged and printed (Fig 2), determining a number of pixels of the image using the determined image file (paragraph [0009]), determining the enlargement ratio corresponding to the determined number of pixels (paragraph [0010]), and enlarging the image at the determined enlargement ratio and printing the enlarged image (paragraphs [0057]-[0058]). Applicants have carefully considered the Examiner's arguments, and respectfully traverse the rejection.

Applicants note at the outset that the rejection is made under 35 U.S.C. §102(e). The critical date of the reference is February 7, 2003, and the priority date of the present application is July 2, 2003. Applicants do not believe that Ishizaka is properly applied to the claims of the present application, as will be described in greater detail below, however, Applicants reserve the right to swear behind Ishizaka under 37 CFR §1.131.

Ishizaka does not teach or suggest the basic function of embodiments of the present invention. As described in the background of the invention, the problem overcome by embodiments of the present invention is poor image quality when images of low resolutions are enlarged to a particular given size compared to images of higher resolution enlarged to the same size (such as the size of a printed sheet of paper). Because fewer pixels of image information are present in the lower resolution image, when the image is enlarged to full-page size, for example, "lattice patterns" otherwise known as pixilation become evident in the enlarged image. Embodiments of the present invention advantageously determine the number of pixels in the image, then *determine an enlargement ratio corresponding to the determined number of*

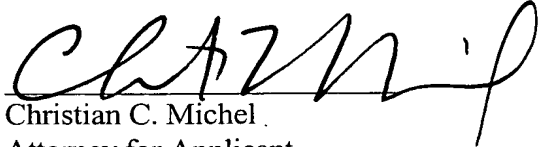
pixels.” In other words, images with lower resolution are enlarged *less* (the enlargement ratio is determined to be smaller) because the number of pixels in the image is determined to be smaller. Table 1 on page 7 of the specification illustrates this function. As illustrated, an image file having fewer than 300,000 pixels may be enlarged only 110%, while an image file having up to 4,000,000 pixels may be enlarged 600%. Thus, enlargement ratio is determined *corresponding to the number of pixels.*

Ishizaka, by contrast, enlarges images *at a preset enlargement ratio.* This is precisely what embodiments of the present invention avoid. Ishizaka, as best understood, teaches a method of using *interpolation* to improve the appearance of images that have been enlarged, by using mathematical techniques to determine how to “fill in the gaps” in the enlarged image. Ishizaka specifically provides for a manner of enlarging images at a *set* enlargement ratio, and improving the appearance of lower resolution images that are enlarged. Ishizaka fails to teach or suggest a method or apparatus for *determining an enlargement ratio corresponding to the determine number of pixels* in the image file. Accordingly, the rejection in view of Ishizaka should be withdrawn.

In view of the above, it is believed that the application is in condition for allowance and notice to this effect is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Appl. No. 10/790,091
Amdt. dated February 9, 2006
Reply to Office Action of November 9, 2005

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Michel', written over a horizontal line.

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